

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, October 29. 1709.

I Have been speaking about the spreading of the *Plague in Europe*—and perhaps have, as you may think, too boldly talk'd of Things not yet known; such as whether the *Plague* shall or shall not spread it self from the *East Country* hither. And yet, without Pretence to Impulses, Agitations, or Prophecies, I am still bold to say, we are under very comfortable Views of missing the Infection here this Season—But if the War in the *North*, which some say is begun, and most People agree is determin'd, should break out—I cannot but, with more Assurance than usual, foretell you, it shall visit a great Part of *Europe*, and us among the rest.

But this is talking of Evils a great Way off, and will merit no more of your Regard, than my former Discourse, of the King of *Sweden* did; when I told you, he was not serving the Cause and Interest of the Protestant Religion AS SUCH, but pursuing his own Ambition, in which GOD would disappoint him. REV. N^o 80. Vol. V. And that if he enter'd *Muscovy*, he would be undone in the End—And that his *PIPER* would lead him such a Dance, that he would find it difficult to get back again—I pretended to no Witch-craft in all these, and yet they are all come to pass.

Now give me leave to say something to the Views we have of the *Northern Affairs*,
and

and I will be as positive with you as I was with him ; you may resent it, if you please, as he did.— The present Attempt against the King of *Sweden* seems to favour of the same Spirit, that his Attempt against *Muscovy* did ; and unless it pleases GOD to act in this contrary, in some measure, to the usual Way of his Providence in the World—it shall succeed in the same or like manner.—Nor does the Blessing of GOD go with it at all—Nay, humanly speaking, it cannot have his Blessing—for it visibly points against what his Interest calls for, and his Hand has bless'd in the rest of *Europe's* Affairs.

The League against the King of *Sweden*, as now they say it is form'd, is between the *Dane*, the *Prussian*, the *Pole*, and the *Muscovite*.— I have nothing to say about the dishonourable Manner of falling upon him, while under the Distress of his late Misfortunes : These Things are such Trifles among the Princes of *Europe* in these late Ages of War, That really they become Legitimate by Custom : Fair Fighting, declaring War, just Grounds of Quarrels, making Demands for Satisfaction in a peaceable Way, and the like, These are become so obsolete, and so out of Fashion in the World, that it is not worth while to insist upon them. The Odds of Four Powers to One, or if they were Fourteen to One, it makes nothing one way or other in this Case—falling on the *Swedes*, when their King is fugitive, and the People under a Conspiration at his Disaster.— All this is nothing ; I wonder rather, some Neighbouring Prince does not fall upon the poor *Danishers*, and seize that City now depopulated with the *Plague*, and unable to defend it self— And perhaps if the Fear of the Infection did not protect them, it would not be long before it was so—that City having been often attempted in vain by its Neighbouring Potentates.

But waving this Part of the Argument, let us see, why the *Dane* and the *Prussian*, should fall on the *Swede* at this time : I will not say they have no old Demands upon him, I will not debate the Claim of the *Danes* to *Schonen*, or of the *Prussian* to *Pomerania*, and the City of *Stetin* ; but this

I dare say openly, without Fear of any One's Resentment—By various Treaties of Peace, the *Dane* has conceded to the *Swedes* the Possession of *Schonen*, and the *Prussian* restor'd to the *Swedes* the City of *Stetin*, and what else he was possess'd of on that side.— And Peace has been made for many Years between these Kings, upon the Foot of these Concessions, as may be seen in the several Treaties of *Copenhagen*, *Travendal*, and *Nimeguen*— And to this Day we see no Claim reviv'd.— Nothing appears as the immediate Ground of a new War—but the Battle of *PULTOWA*, or in *English*, the *Swedes* being beaten ; this is in plainer *English*, The low Condition of the *Swedes* legitimates the War—and the Claim is justify'd from the Opportunity of making it.

Now pray, Gentlemen, turn the Tables. What did you call this in the *Poles* Attempt upon *Riga* ? How oft have we entitl'd the Vengeance of Heaven, and the righteous Judgment of GOD, to the Glory of the Battle of *Narva*, and the Deposing the King of *Poland* ? How did we say all along, it was Divine Justice pursuing them for that most barbarous Rupture with the *Swede*— And indeed while that Prince only fought to deliver himself from that unjust Insult, he was attended with singular Success— And to his possessing *Saxony* he was ever victorious.

But when he pursu'd his Resentment at the King of *Poland* to oppress a Protestant Country, when he dip't his Hands in the Blood of an innocent Captive, when he turn'd to that *Left-handed Expedition* of pursuing his own Revenge against the *Muscovite*—the Blessing forsook him— Indeed Heaven visibly call'd him, when in *Saxony*, to turn to the Right-hand—and to heal the Breaches of oppress'd *Europe* ; to stop the Issue of Blood, that exhausted Christendom, to restore Liberty, Religion, Peace, and Truth, to these Parts of the World, groaning under Tyranny and a bloody War : But he would not hear, he turn'd away from the visible Invitation—and Heaven has turn'd away from him, fill'd him with his own Ways, and brought all his haughty Designs to nought.

But

But is this glorious Chequer-work of Providence instructive to none but the King of Sweden? There is no doubt, but if the rest of the Princes of the World pursue unjustly their own Ambition, and feed themselves with the Miseries of their Neighbours; take Advantage of the Hand of Providence being heavy on them, to oppress and overthrow them—Almighty Power will interpose in like manner—and punish their Ambition, as he has done the other.

Besides—The Method Heaven takes in this Case, is very evident; if Men will not see it—that's their Fault—The Justice, that has corrected the King of Sweden, is plainly pointed at his personal Mistakes, and the Pride, Ambition, and Cruelty of those about him—But what is this to the Swedish Nation?—As a People, they have neither offended GOD or Man, speaking of this present Affair; they are not concern'd in the Invasion of Muscovy, or the Death of General *Parkul*, or in the private Conduct of their Prince, in which he might provoke Divine Justice to humble him, and put a Hook in his Nostils.

But the War, as now in View, is against the Swedish Nation, to dispossess them of their Possessions in Germany, to weaken them in their Influence in Europe, to subject their Dominions to other Princes, and divide this Spoil to themselves—And in this, pardon my assuming, and forbear your Censures till the Issue—*They SHALL NOT Prosper*. The Claim is not from Heaven, the Success of it stands directly opposite to the Protestant Interest in Europe; and the Blessing that supports that Protestant Interest cannot be thought to attend it: The Swedes are a Capital Article in the Account of the Protestant Interest—Many a Time they have been the Bridle of the Austrian Fury, and to this Day they hold the Ballance of Germany—The Protestant Churches of the whole Empire stand upon their Shoulders, and are built upon the Foundation of the Treaty of *Osnaburgh*, of which Swedish Valour was the Builder—Swedish Treasure the Materials, and the Swedish Blood the Cement or Mortar that bound it together.

The Interest of Sweden in Germany cannot be lost to the Protestant Cause, they cannot, they must not be lost; the Protestant Powers cannot part with them—And as long as GOD is pleas'd to uphold the Protestant Churches, I firmly believe, he will never strip them of that powerful Protector, the Swede—At least, if ever it shall please GOD to take the Swede from them, it will be more than probable, he designs to give them up—As the Boar of the Forrest was, to break into his Church, when the Fence was first pull'd down.

To say they are Protestant Powers that are to dispossess the Swede, is to say nothing. The Dane, and the Brandenburg were both in Being, and both Protestant, when *Ferdinand XI.* over-run Germany; nay, the King of Denmark was the Head of the Protestant League, and commanded their Armies, but was overthrown by Count *Tilly*, and brought upon his Knees, as we may say, to the Emperor, for he was forced to forsake the Protestants; nothing could relieve the oppress'd Protestants, till the Great *Gustavus Adolphus* came in Person, fought the great Battle of *Leipsick*, restor'd Germany to her Liberty, and the Protestants to their Religion; and seal'd both with his Blood at the Battle of *Lutzen*, where he dy'd victorious.

Upon this War, Religion was re-edify'd, and the German Liberty restor'd—Here the Austrian Greatness receiv'd a Cheque, and the Neck of Popish Tyranny was broken. But this is not all; By the Awe of the Swedish Power, has the House of Austria been ever since curb'd, and frequently prevented from Encroachments on the German Constitution—It was by this Power, that the very Princes, that are now offering to draw their Swords against Sweden, were establish'd: Had not *Gustavus Adolphus* landed, had not *Tilly* been beaten at the famous Battle of *Leipsick*, there had been no Saxon, or Prussian, or Brandenburg left in Germany to have offer'd this new Breach; but the German Empire had been in a fair way of being dissolv'd, and Austrian Tyranny had over-run all that Part of the World.

These

These are the People that are now to be crush'd—And this is the War we have in View—which to me, I must confess, seems the blindest Piece of Politicks, that ever *Europe* suffer'd to succeed, and is a meer *Felo-de-se*, in which *Germany* is going as it were to cut her own Throat—by falling on that People, who alone are able to prevent the Emperors in Ages to come, destroying them all.

This is so evident an Attempt against the Interest and the Security of the Protestant Religion, That in full Assurance, that GOD has not yet determin'd to abandon the Protestant Cause, and knowing that Heaven, generally speaking, always works by, tho' he is not prescrib'd to Human Means; I venture to say, That if the *Dane* and the *Prussian* fall upon the *Swede* at this Time—— They shall meet with a Disappointment, *THEY SHALL NOT HAVE SUCCESS.*

ADVERTISEMENT S.

THE United Creditors for Debts Contracted in the three last Reigns, that met formerly at *Westminster*, are adjourn'd to the *Marine Coffee-House* in *Birchin Lane* near the *Royal-Exchange*, where Attendance is given Six Days in the Week, from Eleven to Three, to receive Those that will unite with them—— They have discover'd the Ways and Means by which they hope to discharge these Debts, to Three-of the most Judicious Creditors, and they have declar'd their entire Satisfaction both in the Quality and Quantity of their Funds—— Persons of Quality may be attended at their Houses without Charge, by sending a Note to the *Coffee-House* directed to the Solicitor for the Debts of King *William*, &c.

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These are to certifye the Publick, That I *John Younger* of *Cogs-Hall* in *Essex*, having been blind of a Cataract for 32 Years, and about 34 Years of Age: One *Roger Grant*, who professes himself, and sets up for a great Oculist, boldly attempted to couch my Eye in *August*, 1708; but having kept his Needle working in my Eye for Half an Hour at least, put me to very great Pain, without any the least Success. But afterwards I was recommended, by the chief Gentlemen of our Town, to Sir *WILLIAM READ*, Her Majesty's OCULIST, in *Durham-Yard* in the *Strand*, *London*, in *October*, 1709, who couch'd me, and restor'd me to my perfect Sight in less than a Minute, without Pain or much Confinement.

I thought my self oblig'd, in Gratitude and Duty to the said Sir *WILLIAM READ*, to publish this; as also in Justice to the Publick, that the World may no longer be impos'd upon by Counterfeits and Pretenders. Given under my Hand, *October* 22, 1709.

From the Castle, the Back-Side of *St. Clements*. *John Younger.*

I Do hereby certifye the Truth of the Certificate above, the said *John Younger* lodging then at my House, being the Sign of the *Castle* abovesaid; and I being then present, saw Sir *WILLIAM READ* perform the aforesaid Operation.

Sarah Herbage.

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* * Tuesday next will be publish'd, *The Memoirs for the Curious*, for the Month of *June*.

